

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Doris Matsui Announces Release of Nearly \$23 Million for Sacramento Public Transit

Sacramento Receives Significant Portion of Federal Transit Funding

WASHINGTON, DC – Congresswoman Doris O. Matsui (CA-05) announced today that Sacramento Regional Transit District (RT) will receive \$22,985,880 immediately from the Department of Transportation and Federal Transit Administration. The funding will enhance the security and comfort of commuters in the Sacramento-area through investments in the light rail system, and enable the purchase of fifty-seven passenger diesel commuter buses and update thirteen light rail vehicles. It will also allow Paratransit, Inc. to provide more services for the disabled community in Sacramento through the purchase of eleven minivans; the replacement of their outdated telephone system; and supplement ADA operations across Sacramento and El Dorado Counties. The funding announced today is in addition to the \$1 million announced through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) just last week for preventive maintenance.

“The federal dollars being released through the economic recovery package for Sacramento transportation projects are a smart and responsible investment in our community,” stated Congresswoman Matsui.

“The approval of almost \$23 million from the Department of Transportation for public transit projects in the Sacramento region could not have come at a better time,” said Mike Wiley,

General Manager/CEO of RT. “State transit funding has been significantly cut and the recession has dwindled regional tax revenue dedicated to public transportation. RT’s portion of this funding will be utilized for ADA operations, preventative maintenance and the retrofit of light rail vehicles. RT is also pleased in our collaborative role with other Greater Sacramento area transit providers to secure funding. We are extremely thankful to have Congresswoman Matsui’s vision and support in securing federal funding for public transit that improves our community through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.”

“In addition to serving the community as a whole, several of the purchases to be made with these funds will help local disabled individuals and seniors travel around the Sacramento area,” Matsui said. “Through these public transit options, we can ensure that every individual can fully contribute to our workforce and community. At times, many of us have taken such simple tasks as commuting to work for granted. I am happy to see that Sacramento’s transit system will continue to be able to provide aid to all of its citizens, and that the federal government is able to accommodate all American’s mobility needs.”

“Today’s announcement that Paratransit, Inc. will receive critically needed funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for our top two projects is wonderful news,” said Linda Deavens, Chief Executive Officer of Paratransit. “These funds will help improve access to essential transportation services for people with disabilities and the growing senior population in Sacramento County. Especially important to Paratransit is the fact these projects will create jobs and help stimulate the recovery of our local and national economy.”

“Paratransit is grateful to our community partners, our local planning agency, and to Congresswoman Doris Matsui and her staff for recognizing how these projects will make a meaningful difference in the lives of our passengers,” Deavens continued. “Congresswoman Matsui has consistently sought input within her district on the issues facing Paratransit and has searched for creative and sustainable solutions to the challenges we face. This news is a win-win for everyone and advances Paratransit’s goal of creating independence through smart transit.”

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